

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 THESSA 00547 091316Z

46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCSE-00 SCA-01 SY-04 SCCT-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /109 W

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R 091150Z SEPT 74

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2069

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0547

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : SOCI, GR

SUBJECT : CONVICTION OF 16 JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES

REF : THESSALONIKI 182, MARCH 26, 1973

1. THESSALONIKI PAPERS OF SEPTEMBER 7 REPORT CONVICTION PREVIOUS DAY OF 16 JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES BY MILITARY COURTS IN THESSALONIKI, KOZANI AND LARISSA FOR REFUSAL TO PERFORM MILITARY SERVICE. FOUR DEFENDANTS IN THESSALONIKI EACH RECEIVED TERMS OF 18-20 YEARS, SEVEN IN KOZANI 15-20 YEARS, AND FIVE IN LARISSA 12-20 YEARS. JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES USED DEFENSE THAT MILITARY SERVICE WOULD VIOLATE RELIGIOUS BELIEFS.

2. COMMENT: IN PAST JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES HERE FREQUENTLY CHARGED WITH PROSELYTISM AND REFUSAL TO SERVE IN ARMED FORCES (REF). WHILE ALL PERSONS INVOLVED ARE GREEK NATIONALS, CONGEN REPORTING ABOVE IN VIEW OF HEAVY SENTENCES AND POSSIBILITY OF PROTEST BY US MEMBERS OF SECT.
BRENNAN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 09 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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